

REMARKS

Claim Objection

Claim 24 is objected to because the word "form" should be written as "from."

The present amendment corrects this typographical error.

Art Rejections

Claims 13-19, 22, 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oellerking. Oellerking is said to disclose a fabric comprising a welding portion and a fixing portion which is bonded to a substrate. The welding portion may be continuously formed across the perimeter of the fabric, or it may be discontinuous. The welding portion is said to comprise a weldable plastic material. The fabric is also said to comprise a fixing portion. The Examiner alleges that Oellerking inherently teaches that the welding portion comprises warp fibers which are coated with a thermoplastic material.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The present invention is directed to a fabric having at least one welding portion, shown in Figure 1 as A, and a fixing portion, shown in Figure 1 as B. The fixing portion B is provided with **auxiliary fixing means**, such as holes, H as shown in Figure 3A and straps U as shown in Figure 3B. This limitation has been introduced into claim 13 from claim 18. There is nothing in Oellerking that discloses such an auxiliary fixing means.

Claims 13-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oellerking. Oellerking is said to disclose a fabric comprising a welding portion and a fixing portion. The welding portion may be continuously formed across the perimeter of the fabric or it may be discontinuous. The fabric is said also to comprises a fixing portion, *i.e.*, a non-coated portion.

In re Appl. No. 09/033,909

This rejection is respectfully traversed. There is no disclosure or suggestion of an auxiliary fixing portion in Oellerking, as is required by the claims as amended herein. These fixing means, such as holes or straps, are included to facilitate fixing the unit to another unit or to a column using a rope or cord or similar device threaded through the holes, or by means of the straps on the fabric.

It is noted that Huemer is cited merely as being pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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